

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150329

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

FOL RPT USUN NEW YORK 02088 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE JOHANNESBURG LAGOS LIBREVILLE LONDON LUSAKA
MAPUTO OTTAWAPARIS PRETORIA 24 MAY 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02088

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

JOHANNESBURG FOR AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION OF WALVIS BAY

1. CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSED AM MAY 23 POSSIBLE SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WALVIS BAY. BRITISH SUGGESTED
THAT LONDON HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONCEPT
OF THE FIVE ABSTAINING ON A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD
DECLARE THAT WALVIS BAY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA.
LONDON'S PRIMARY CONCERN CENTERS ON THE DIFFICULTY OF
ASSURING THAT THE PASSAGE OF SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD
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NOT AFFECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL. THE
GROUP AGREED, NOTING THAT FIVE MAY WELL HAVE TO SETTLE
FOR SUCH AN ABSTENTION SCENARIO LATER BUT THAT IT
SHOULD NOT BE SOMETHING THAT FIVE NOW PROPOSE. WE
ADDED THAT WE FELT IT IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE TO
FOCUS ON RESOLUTIONS WHICH WE COULD SUPPORT, NOT ONES
ON WHICH WE WOULD ABSTAIN.

2. GROUP THEN AGREED AD REFERENDUM UPON A DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, THE CENTRAL OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF WHICH "CALLS FOR THE OPENING WITHOUT DELAY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH A NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO REACHING EARLY AGREEMENT THAT NAMIBIA HAS SOVEREIGNTY OVER WALVIS BAY". THE GROUP'S INTENTION IS THAT THIS RESOLUTION (FULL TEXT FOLLOWS PARA 4 BELOW) BE ONE WHICH THE FIVE COULD NOW AGREE TO SUPPORT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE CONTEXT OF SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL.

3. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION, THE FRENCH ADVISED GROUP THAT PARIS MIGHT HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT COMMITTING THE FIVE AT THIS STAGE TO SUPPORTING SUCH A RESOLUTION. PARIS REPORTEDLY PREFERS SIMPLY A COMMITMENT TO A JOINT DECLARATION OF THE FIVE TO THE SAME EFFECT. WE AND THE GERMANS ARGUED THAT A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SUCH A RESOLUTION IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO THE FRONTLINE OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD SOLVING THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION AND TO PROVIDE THE FRONTLINE WITH SUBSTANTIAL AMMUNITION FOR ENCOURAGING SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL. THE BRITISH WERE QUIET, BUT THE CANADIANS JOINED THE FRENCH IN SUGGESTING THAT THE RESOLUTION MIGHT BE HELD IN RESERVE FOR LATER

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BARGAINING. WE COUNTERED BY STATING THAT OUR CONCERN IS NOT BARGAINING BUT RATHER DEMONSTRATING A "GOOD FAITH" EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY. THE FRENCH REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO SEE WHAT PARIS SAYS.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

- THE SECURITY COUNCIL
- RECALLING ITS RESOLUTION(S) 385 (1976) BEGIN BRACKETS AND (1978), END BRACKETS,
- RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ETHNIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY,
- NOTING THAT ALL POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN NAMIBIA WISH TO ENSURE THE RESUMPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WALVIS BAY AS PART OF NAMIBIA,
- NOTING FURTHER THE WIDESPREAD CONVICTION AMONGST THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT WALVIS BAY IS AN INTEGRAL
PART OF THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA,

(1) DECLARES THAT THE INTEGRITY AND VIABILITY OF THE
INDEPENDENT STATE OF NAMIBIA CANNOT BE ASSURED WITHOUT
THE INCLUSION OF WALVIS BAY WITHIN ITS TERRITORY;

(2) CALLS FOR THE OPENING WITHOUT DELAY OF NEGOTIATIONS
A
WITH A NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO REACHING EARLY
AGREEMENT THAT NAMIBIA HAS SOVEREIGNTY OVER WALVIS BAY;

(3) AFFIRMS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL LEND ITS FULL
SUPPORT TO THE ATTAINMENT OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO SUCH
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NEGOTIATIONS;

(4) DECIDES TO REMAIN SEIZED OF THE MATTER AND TO KEEP
UNDER REVIEW PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS END. YOUNG

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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